



April and May when we have either the Isotopes or the Lobos playing games almost every day. I do the best I can during the season and am getting better at taking more time for myself and my family during the offseason. I have learned that the job is more enjoyable when you take the time to “recharge the batteries” during the slow months and when you find time away from the park during the busiest months.

SportsTurf: Do you plan any adjustments to your maintenance plan

in 2008? Did you purchase any new equipment or product for this year?

Alley: I am planning on doing more deep solid tine aerification [1/2 x 6-inch+] during the season and pulling fewer cores. In the past we have cored up to three times during the season and with such a tight window for performing maintenance I feel like we have sometimes done more harm than good. We will pull cores once during the season (probably June based on our schedule) and then 1-2 times in the fall when the season is over.

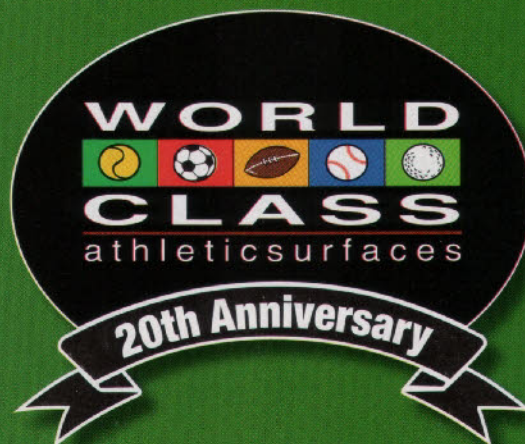
We will try to solid tine the field in March/April depending on weather, once in May and once in July. One of the core aerations during the fall (end of September) will be performed with 8 inches deep by 3/4-inch hollow tines. We have been using a Broyhill Stadium 80 sprayer, but will be working to upgrade to a more efficient option. We used more foliar applications last year and would like to continue that trend in 2008, but it will depend on the type of sprayer we are able to get approved.

SportsTurf: What’s the greatest pleasure you derive from your job? What’s the biggest headache?

Alley: I enjoy being outdoors, working with my hands, and have a passion for the game of baseball. This job allows me to combine all of those on a daily basis. In 8 years as a sports turf manager I have never agonized over going to work and think if you can achieve that in your profession it can only lead to happiness in your personal/family life.

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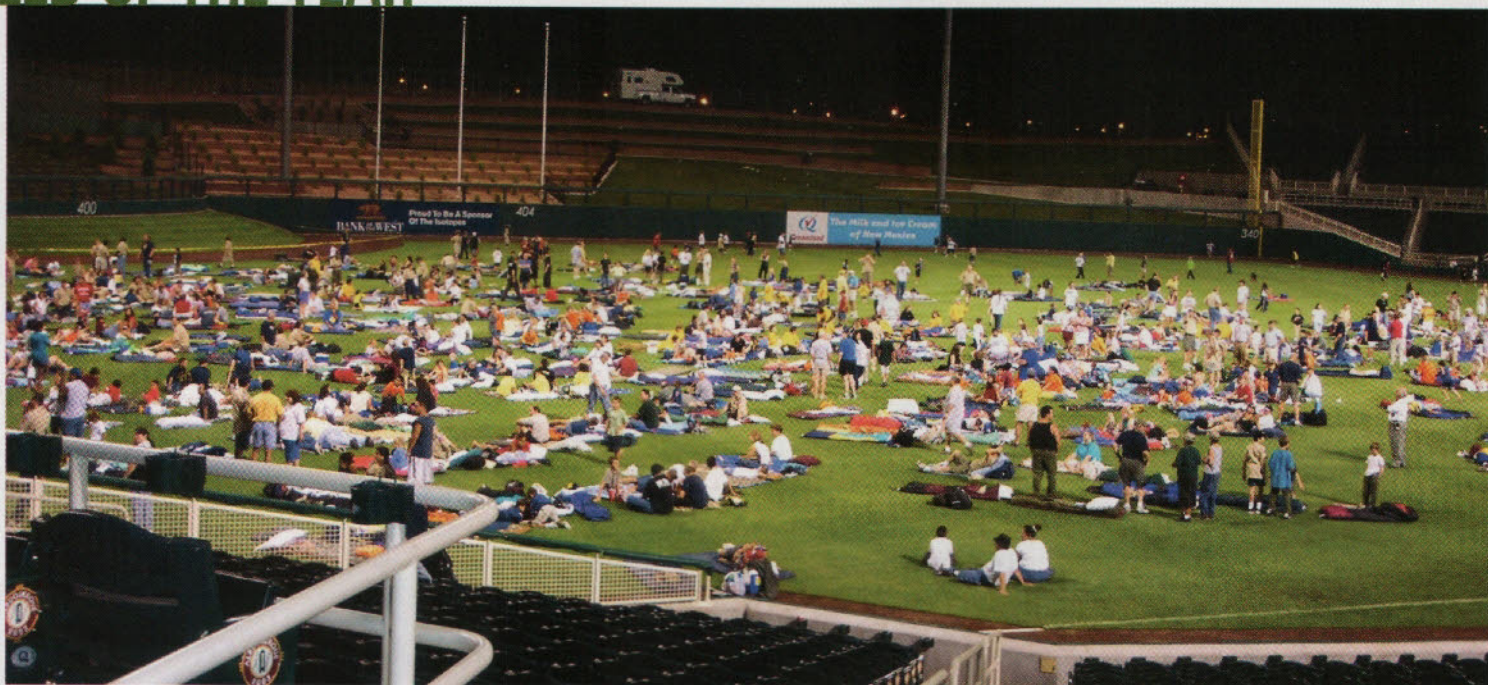
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The biggest headache for baseball field managers is the weather. People always act as though we have control over it and/or have a magic

ball to determine and explain exactly what it will do at any given time. Also, we never seem to be pleased with what the weather is doing.

When the team is on the road we want it to rain (it doesn't), when the team is at home we want it dry (it rains), and no matter what the conditions are for the day when you pick up a hose the wind starts blowing—directly into your face no matter which direction you are facing.

SportsTurf: How do you see the sports turf manager's job changing in the future?

Alley: I see the sports turf manager's job being more easily recognized as the professional position that it has become. As we continue to educate the people we work with and for, I feel that we will eventually get to a point where professionals are expected in all of these positions.

I hope to see the time where everyone can understand the importance of our knowledge and dedication to the sports that we service. Such as how people understand the importance of an emergency room doctor. Most people don't know what exactly an ER doctor does on an hourly or daily basis, but they do understand and respect just how critical they are to the medical profession.

The continued efforts of all sports turf managers will help to grow our profession into one that can be recognized as a necessity for sports of all levels and abilities. ■

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MONTHLY MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

January: Equipment maintenance; turf blankets on infield and aprons

February: Prep field for Lobo games; blankets off for games only

March: 2 lbs N/1000, .65 lbs P/1000, 5 lbs K/1000; blankets off for year
Overseed wear areas as needed; 1/2-ft. x 8-in. solid deep tine aeration and topdress

Mow infield at 1 in., outfield at 1.25 in.

April: 1 lb N/1000, .36 lb P/1000, 1.1 lbs K/1000

Spray Roots and Iron at 3 oz/1000

Core aerate field and topdress with 25 tons of sand

May: 1 lb N/1000, 2.1 lbs K/1000

Spray Roots and Iron at 3 oz/1000

Spray 7-0-1 and Iron at 3 oz/1000

Deep tine field (1/2-in. x 7-in. solids) and topdress

June: .55 lb N/1000, .25 lb P/1000, 1.75 lbs K/1000, .75 lbs Ca/1000, .25 lbs Mg/1000

Spray AgriPlex and Iron at 3 oz/1000

Spray Roots and Iron at 3 oz/1000

Core aerate entire field and topdress (30 tons sand)

July: .65 lb N/1000, 1.25 lb K/1000, 1 lb Mg/1000

Perk (4-0-10) at 1 lb Fe/1000

Spray Roots and Iron at 3 oz/1000

Spray 7-0-1 and Iron at 3 oz/1000

Deep tine field (1/2-in. x 6-in. solids) and topdress

August: .75 lb N/1000, 1 lb K/1000

Spray AgriPlex and Iron at 3 oz/1000

Spray Roots and Iron at 3 oz/1000

September: .92 lb N/1000, .24 lb K/1000, 1 lb K/1000

Spray AgriPlex and Iron at 3 oz/1000

Spray Roots and Iron at 3 oz/1000

Overseed infield, aprons, and poa spots

Topdress (10 tons sand)

Wash out all edges

Overseed landscape areas

October: 2 lbs N/1000, 1 lb P/1000, 3 lbs K/1000

Spray Roots and Iron at 3 oz/1000 (twice)

Laser grade infield and warning track

Deep tine field (3/4-in. x 8-in. cores) and topdress (60 tons)

Renovate all mounds

Raise mowing height to 1.75 in.

November: 1.5 lbs N/1000, .5 lb P/1000, 3 lbs K/1000

Spray Roots and Iron at 3 oz/1000

December: Turf blankets on

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STMA Conference attendance up 20%

The 19th annual Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) Conference and Exhibition broke several records for attendance, bringing more than 1,800 total participants to Phoenix January 15-19, a gain of nearly 20% in total attendance from last year's conference.

STMA's Seminar-on-Wheels program also experienced tremendous growth. Typically drawing 75 attendees per tour, this year saw 111 and 356 participants, respectively, for Tuesday's and Wednesday's tours. The first tour stopped at two stadiums, a soccer complex, a thoroughbred horse racing complex and a turf sod farm. In addition to a multi-use sports complex and a baseball park, the second tour visited Chase Field that has a unique retractable roof, and the University of Phoenix Stadium, which was the game field for this year's memorable Super Bowl.

Integral to the conference was the 100,000 sq. ft. exhibition that showcased the sports turf industry's products, services and equipment. More than 165 companies displayed the newest innovations in turf-related products. New on the trade show floor this year was the building of a regulation-size pitcher's mound. Led by minor league head groundskeeper Chris Ralston with Lake Elsinore Storm Baseball, the mound-building provided a unique learning experience for attendees.

Sixty-eight educational sessions and workshops, roundtable discussions, and a hands-on training session hosted by MLB/NFL/MLS turf managers were packed into the 4-day conference. The conference events were enhanced by the support of Barenbrug; Beacon Athletics; Covermaster; Cygnet Turf & Equipment; Diamond Pro; Ewing Irrigation; Hunter Industries; Jacobsen, A Textron Company; Kubota; Midwest Rake; Pro's Choice; The Toro Company; Turface Athletics; West Coast Turf; and World Class Athletic Surfaces.

STMA highest honors presented

The STMA Awards banquet culminated in the awarding of the Founders Awards, STMA's most prestigious honors. Donald Fowler, retired Penn State Cooperative Extension agent, received the Dick Ericson award, which is given to a sports turf manager who positively



Donald Fowler

impacts the sports turf industry and exhibits effective team leadership. Fowler has made a tremendous impact in his home state of Pennsylvania retiring after 30 years in extension. He was instrumental in organizing the STMA-affiliated chapter, KAFMO, and since 1996, he has been the lead organizer of the group of volunteers who work the Little League World Series.



Dr. Mike Goatley

Dr. Mike Goatley, turfgrass specialist at Virginia Tech, received the Dr. William H. Daniel Award, which acknowledges significant contributions to the sports turf industry through research, teaching and extension outreach. Goatley has been working in sports field research for many years. He's an educator, a prominent author, and the go-to resource for warm season turfgrass questions.



Tony Diaz

The George Toma Golden Rake Award, which acknowledges an individual's strong work ethic and job performance, was pre-



Bob Curry

sented to Tony Diaz with Waukegan Parks Department in Waukegan, IL. Diaz was cited as going above and beyond the expected to insure his fields are safe and playable, often working late to get fields affected by rain ready for play that evening. That perseverance is loved by the baseball teams who use his fields because there are virtually no rainouts.

The Harry C. Gill Memorial Award was presented to former STMA board member Bob Curry of Covermaster. The Gill Award recognizes an individual for their hard work in the sports turf industry and acknowledges their dedication and service to the STMA. Curry has been a long time supporter and promoter of STMA and the sports turf profession within the U.S. and internationally. In STMA's lean years, he paid for board members expenses to board meetings to help out the cash-strapped organization and played an integral role in the STMA headquarters transition from outside management to its own staff, devoting much of his personal time to making the transition seamless.

Country's best turf managers

Nine STMA Field of the Year winners were also honored during the annual awards banquet. The sports turf managers whose fields won were judged to have exceptional playability and aesthetic playing surfaces, employ innovative solutions, use budget dollars effectively, and develop and implement a comprehensive, agronomically sound maintenance program. The winners include:

Field of the Year	Level	Category	Location
Mary Rountree Evans Field	Schools and Parks	Baseball	Baraboo, WI
Tomball High School Softball Field	Schools and Parks	Softball	Tomball, TX
Pleasant Run Soccer Fields	Schools and Parks	Soccer	Colleyville, TX
Centurion Field - Christian Academy of Louisville	Schools and Parks	Football	Louisville, KY
Hawks Field at Haymarket Park	College and University	Baseball	Lincoln, NE
George Mason University	College and University	Softball	Fairfax, VA
Carroll College	College and University	Soccer	Helena, MT
Kilkenny Fields - University of Oregon	College and University	Football	Eugene, OR
Isotopes Park	Professional	Baseball	Albuquerque, NM

Four Minor League Baseball (MiLB) Sports Turf Managers were honored for the quality of their fields during the awards banquet. STMA is a co-sponsor with the MiLB for the Sports Turf Manager of the Year Awards. Sixteen leagues selected a winner and from those winners, STMA awarded the Sports Turf Manager of the Year to

- Short Season/Rookie – Joe Hill,

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- Spokane Indians
- Class A – Chris Ball, Myrtle Beach Pelicans
- Class AA – Eric Blanton, New Hampshire Fisher Cats
- Class AAA – Jake Tyler, Toledo Mud Hens (back-to-back winner)

2008 Board of Directors

The 2008 STMA Board of Directors was presented at the association's annual meeting, Jan. 17, in Phoenix. The Nominating Committee presented the slate of candidates to the membership in November. Voting members cast ballots in December and the new 12-person Board of Directors officially takes office during the Annual Meeting. Serving in 2008 are:

President—Mike Andresen, CSFM, Iowa State University (2nd year of a 2-yr. term)

Immediate Past President—Mike Trigg, CSFM, Waukegan Park District (2nd year of a 2-yr. term)

President Elect—Abby McNeal, CSFM, Colorado School of Mines. (McNeal had resigned this position in January due to her employment status, which changed before March 1, so President Andresen appointed her to the position.)

Vice President Commercial—Dale Getz, CSFM, CSE, the Toro Company

Secretary—Chris Calcaterra, M.Ed., CSFM, CPRP, City of Peoria Sports Complex

Treasurer—Troy Smith, CSFM, Denver Broncos Football Club

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Higher Education—Amy Fouty, CSFM, Michigan State University – Spartan Stadium

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Schools K-12—Jody Gill, Blue Valley School District

Academic—Mike Goatley, Jr., Ph.D., Virginia Tech University, CSES Dept.

Parks & Recreation—David Pinsonneault,

CSFM, CPRP, Town of Lexington

Commercial Members—Chad Price, CSFM, Carolina Green Corporation

For individual biographies on the 2008 STMA Board of Directors, go to the STMA web site, www.STMA.org.

Students compete in 4th Collegiate Challenge

Students were able to take advantage of many activities specifically geared to them including two forums and the Fourth Annual Student Collegiate Challenge presented in partnership with the SAFE Foundation and Platinum Sponsor Hunter Industries. Through the generosity of SAFE, the Student Challenge provides the winning two-year team and the winning four-year team each with a \$4,000 grant to fund a practical

learning lab at their college or university. Ninety-nine students comprising thirty teams from various colleges and universities participated in a multiple choice exam on athletic turf and sports field management topics and identified plants, insects, diseases and weeds, as well as a written case study. Twenty-six teams competed in the event in 2007. Hunter Industries' continued sponsorship picks up the tab for all Student Challenge competitors STMA Conference registration.

The winning team from the 4-year competition was The Pennsylvania State University Team 008, whose members were Matt Naedel, Tanner Del Valle, Mark Peasley, and Matt Elmore. Iowa State University Team 010 came in second and Iowa State Team 003 came in third.

In the 2-year program, The Pennsylvania State University Team 104 took top honors, with teammates Josh Dubbs, Blaise Restifo, Robert Finnegan, and Andre Aymar. Second place went to Michigan State University Team 103 and third place was taken home by Mt. San Antonio College Team 101.

The two first place teams also received the Student Challenge Cup and individual medals. Second and Third place winners received certificates and medals.

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charitable arm of STMA, raised more than \$25,000 for scholarship, research and education during the conference. Eight outstanding students were recognized for winning scholarships

during the Awards Banquet. The SAFE Scholarship Program is funded through the generous support of The TORO Foundation, Jacobsen, a Textron Company, the SAFE Live and Silent Auctions, and Raffles and the miscellaneous donations received from individuals and companies throughout the year.

- Graduate—Nick McKenna, Virginia Tech: Dr. James Watson Graduate Scholarship, \$2,500
- Four-year—Sara Camuso, Penn State: Dr. James Watson Undergraduate Scholarship, \$2,500
- Christopher Webb, Virginia Tech: SAFE Undergraduate Scholarship, \$1,500
- Evan Buckley, Purdue University: SAFE Undergraduate Scholarship, \$1,000
- Brent Goodwin, University of Kentucky: SAFE Undergraduate Scholarship, \$1,000
- Robert Ralston, Kansas State University: SAFE Undergraduate Scholarship, \$1,000
- Two-year—Marshall Brice, Michigan State University: Fred Grau Memorial Scholarship, \$2,000
- Russell Bray, Michigan State: SAFE Two Year Scholarship, \$1,000 ■

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Peoria, AZ wins America in Bloom Award

Peoria, AZ was the winner of one of eight criteria awards, The Scotts Co. Turf & Groundcover Areas Award, announced during the sixth annual America in Bloom (AIB) Symposium and Awards Program at the Clock Tower Resort last year in Rockford, IL.

STMA Board Secretary Chris Calcaterra, M.Ed., CSFM, CPRP, is manager of the City of Peoria Sports Complex.

AIB is a national campaign and contest that promotes enhancing communities through beautification. In the friendly competition, communities are matched by population and evaluated on their efforts related to floral displays, urban forestry, landscaped areas, turf and groundcover, tidiness, environmental awareness, heritage conservation, and com-



munity involvement. Judges visited the communities this summer.

Special awards were presented to communities which received high marks out of all contestants in all population categories. These include:

Ball Horticultural Company Floral Displays Award: Saratoga Springs, NY

Meister Media Worldwide Heritage Preservation Award: Norwich, CT

Project Evergreen Landscaped Areas Award: Beloit, WI

American Horticultural Society Community Involvement Award: Kirkwood, MO

Gardens Alive! Environmental Awareness Award: Red Wing, MN

Lesco/John Deere Landscapes Tidiness Award: Greendale, IN

J Frank Schmidt & Son Company Urban Forestry Award: Ithaca, NY

Plans are underway for the 2008 edition of AIB. Communities can register to participate at www.americainbloom.org. ■



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STMA installs NC chapter

At the Chapter Officers Training Session held during the STMA Annual Conference and Exhibition in Phoenix in January, STMA officially installed its 31st chapter, the North Carolina Sports Turf Managers Association (NCSTMA). Chapter Officers Tommy Walston, Jimmy Simpson, and Eddie Rosdhal attended the installation. Representatives from 28 STMA affiliated chapters applauded as Amy Fouty, CSFM, Chapter Relations Chair presented the new chapter with a gavel.

Although the affiliation with STMA is new, the chapter has been providing education, networking and resources as a non-profit professional organization called the NC Sports Turf Association, with an Eastern and Western chapter. The affiliation with STMA allows for broader sharing of practical knowledge and the opportunity for more educational resources relating to the management of athletic fields.

The NCSTMA will receive all the benefits of STMA affiliated chapters.

Those include:

- \$500 in Chapter Development Funds
- Insurance for the Chapter Officers
- Free Membership for a Chapter Administrator
- Use of the STMA Membership Database software
- Access to the STMA Chapter Ambassador Program
- Access to National Marketing Materials and Display Booth
- Access to the National Survey Software
- A subscription to [ITALICS]SportsTurf[END ITAL] magazine for each chapter member



Receiving the chapter gavel for the newly installed North Carolina Sports Turf Managers Association from Chapter Relations Chair, Amy Fouty, CSFM, are the officers (l to r) Tommy Walston, Jimmy Simpson and Eddie Rosdhal.

- A chapter page on www.STMA.org
- Dues collection for the chapter

STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona:
www.azstma.com.

Chesapeake Chapter STMA (formerly Mid-Atlantic Athletic Field Managers Organization – MAFMO Chapter STMA):
www.ccstma.org.

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.cstma.org.

Florida #1 Chapter: 954/782-2748

Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association: www.gatewaystma.org.

Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association:
706/542-7859.

The Greater L.A. Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.stmalabasin.com.

Illinois Chapter STMA: 847/263-7603.

Intermountain Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: www.imstma.org.

Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.iowaturfgrass.org.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Org.

(KAFMO/STMA): www.KAFMO.org.

Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.kystma.org.

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA): www.mistma.org.

Minnesota Chapter STMA: www.mstma.org.

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.mokanstma.com.

New England STMA (NESTMA):
www.nestma.org.

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association:
402/441-4425.

North Carolina Chapter of STMA:
919/515-3492.

North Florida STMA Chapter: 850/580-4026.

Northern California STMA:
www.norcalstma.org.

Ozarks STMA: www.ozarksstma.org.

Sports Turf Managers of New York:
www.stmony.org.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey: www.sfmanj.org.

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA): www.ostma.org.

Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association: www.pnwstma.org.

Southern California Chapter:
www.socalstma.com.

South Carolina Chapter of STMA:
www.scstma.org.

Texas Sports Turf Managers Association:
866/897-8621.

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA): www.tvstma.org.

Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.vstma.org.

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association:
www.wstma.org.

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Nevada STMA Chapter: 702/433-3113.

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